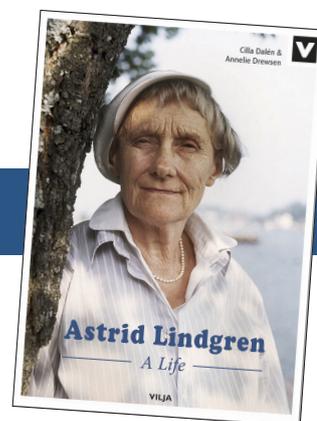


CILLA DALÉN & ANNELIE DREWSEN
translated by Suzanne Martin Cheadle

Astrid Lindgren – A Life



ABOUT THE BOOK

This is a book about Astrid Lindgren's life and work. In the student material, every chapter has questions on the text and word exercises. There is also an exercise where the students pair English and Swedish book titles together, and an oral exercise where students work in pairs and look at the list of languages in the chapter *The Whole World Reads Astrid's Books*.

About the authors

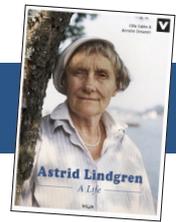
Annelie Drewsen is the author of several titles at Vilja and Nypon förlag. She is a journalist and has been a teacher for many years. Together with Cilla Dalén, a school librarian, she has written this biography. Suzanne Martin Cheadle made the translation into English.

Before you read

What do the students know about Astrid Lindgren? What books have they read? What films and TV series have they watched? Do they have a favourite book? A favourite character? Why?

A summary

There are 19 chapters in this book (not counting *Do you Want to Learn More? and Important Years in Astrid's Life*). The students work in pairs. Give each pair two chapters and ask them to write keywords about the chapters. Ask each pair to give an oral summary of each chapter (after practising).



EXERCISES WITH KEY

The best Astrid in the World

Questions

1. Who is Astrid Lindgren?
She is one of Sweden's best-known authors. Almost all Swedes know who she is.
2. What is the figure 100 about?
Astrid Lindgren's books have been translated into over 100 languages.
3. What is the figure 60 about?
Over 60 million books about Pippi have been sold.
4. What was Astrid Lindgren like? Five things are said about her. What five things?
She was playful, she stood up for the rights of children, she wasn't afraid of speaking her mind, she was smart and kind.
5. What is ALMA?
It is the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, the world's largest prize for authors of children's books.

Words

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. well-known | känd |
| 2. author | författare |
| 3. famous | berömd |
| 4. playful | lekfull |
| 5. speaking her mind | säga vad hon tycker |

Life on a Farm

Questions

1. How many brothers and sisters did Astrid have?
She had one older brother and two younger sisters.
2. What did her parents do for a living?
They were farmers.
3. How do we know that Astrid's family was well-off (they were not poor)?
They had maids and farmhands who lived and worked at the farm.
4. Astrid and her brothers and sisters had fun together. What did they do?
They climbed trees, they played soccer and indoor they played "the floor is lava".
5. The children had to work at the farm, too. What did they do?
They worked with the horses, cows, pigs, sheep and chicken.
6. Why did Astrid's father say that he had strange kids?
They all worked with words.



Words

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 1. maids | 2 | drängar |
| 2. farmhands | 1 | pigor |
| 3. usually | 7 | riksdagsman |
| 4. siblings | 4 | syskon |
| 5. tend (cows, pigs) | 5 | ta hand om |
| 6. show affection for someone | 3 | vanligtvis |
| 7. member of Parliament | 6 | visa att man tycker om någon |
| 8. translator | 8 | översättare |

Astrid Goes to School

Questions

1. Who was Mardie?
Mardie, Anne-Marie, was a girl in Astrid's class. Astrid and Mardie became friends.
2. Mardie is a character in some of Astrid Lindgren's books. What is the character's name in Swedish?
Mardie is Madicken.
3. At school, there was a difference between rich children and poor children. Two things are mentioned. What things?
The poor children only had potatoes and water for lunch. The teacher was kind to children from rich families.
4. When Astrid was 13 years old, something important happened. What happened?
She wrote an essay that was printed by the Wimmerby Newspaper. It was called "On our farm".
5. Why was Astrid scared of becoming an author do you think?
Student's own answer.



Words

1. wrestle	7	bra betyg
2. wealthy	1	brottas
3. to be well-off	9	det skulle kunna vara roligt
4. unfair	3	ha det bra (ekonomiskt)
5. third grade	6	hustaket
6. the rooftop	4	orättvis
7. good grades	8	skrämde henne
8. scared her	10	uppsats
9. it might be fun	2	välbärgad, rik
10. essay	5	årskurs tre

A Job at the Wimmerby Newspaper

Questions

1. When Astrid became a teenager, she was often sad. Why?
She thought she was ugly and that no one would fall in love with her.
2. Astrid did something that her parents did not like. What did she do? Why did her parents not like that?
She cut her long hair. It was unusual for girls to have long hair at that time.
3. Astrid started working at the Wimmerby Newspaper. What did she do there?
She wrote articles and notices, she answered the phone and ran errands in town.
4. What were Astrid's articles "On the road" about?
They were about the hike that Astrid did together with five friends. They hiked 300 kilometres in ten days with backpacks and tents.



Words

a teenager	en tonåring
unusual	ovanligt
make her own decisions	bestämma själv
an intern	en praktikant
notices	notiser
run errands	gå ärenden
editor-in-chief	chefredaktör
to hike	att vandra
belongings	tillhörigheter

Astrid Gets Pregnant

Questions

1. What do we know about the father of Astrid's baby?
He was Astrid's boss, his name was Reinhold Blomberg, he was 50 years old, married and had seven children.
2. What did Astrid's father mean when he said "One mistake is good enough"?
He meant that getting pregnant was one mistake and he did not think that Astrid should marry Reinhold Blomberg. That would be another mistake.
3. Why did Astrid move to Stockholm?
She knew that people in Vimmerby would gossip about her if they saw that she was pregnant.
4. What did Astrid do in Stockholm?
She took classes to become a secretary and she learned stenography.
- 5- Why did Astrid go to Copenhagen to have her baby?
In Denmark you could give birth without saying who the father was.
6. What happened to Lasse, Astrid's baby?
He lived with his foster mother Marie in Denmark.

Words

1. gravid	8	arrived
2. skilsmässa	2	divorce
3. gifta sig	7	fairly
4. skvallra	3	get married
5. gå på kurs	6	give birth
6. föda	4	gossip
7. ganska	1	pregnant
8. anlände	5	take classes



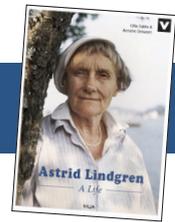
Alone and Poor in Stockholm

Questions

1. What did Astrid do in Stockholm?
She continued her studies and worked at the same time.
2. How do we know that she was poor?
She rented a room with some other young women and she was often hungry.
3. Astrid felt very lonely. What helped her feeling less alone?
She went to the library and read lots of books.
4. Astrid missed her little boy, Lasse, very much. How do we know that?
The trip to Denmark was expensive and took a long time, but Astrid visited Lasse 14 times during three years.
5. What happened in 1929?
Lasse's foster mother was ill and had to go to hospital. She could not take care of Lasse.
6. Why was life in Stockholm difficult for Lasse and Astrid?
Lasse was sick and coughed a lot. Astrid had to take care of him.
7. Lasse went to Småland to live with his grand-parents. What was his life like there?
His grand-parents loved him and he could play both inside and outside.

Words

continued	fortsatte
offices	kontor
rented	hyrde
simply	enkelt
packages	paket
less alone	mindre ensam
during	under (om tid)
suddenly	plötsligt
whispered	viskade
she didn't care	hon brydde sig inte om det
proud	stolt
shame	skam



Astrid and Sture Get Married

Questions

1. What do we know about Astrid's husband, Sture?
His name was Sture Lindgren, and he was nine years older than Astrid. He was the office manager at the Royal Automobile Club (KAK) where Astrid worked.
2. Astrid stopped working and stayed home with Lasse. What did they like to do?
They liked to swing, go down the slide, climb trees, and ski.
3. Sture did not earn much money so Astrid had to work too. What did she do?
She wrote stories for various newspapers and she was the editor of a book published by the automobile club.

Words

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. kontorschef | office manager |
| 2. en lägenhet | an apartment |
| 3. stannade hemma | stayed home |
| 4. att gunga | to swing |
| 5. åka rutschkana | go down the slide |
| 6. åka skidor | ski |
| 7. vuxna | grown-ups |
| 8. tjäna pengar | earn money |

Mother of Two with a Secret Job

Questions

1. What happened in May 1934?
Astrid and Sture had a daughter, Karin.
2. What did Astrid do during the day?
She went to Vasaparken with her daughter.
3. What made Astrid mad?
Grown-ups seldom listened to children and some parents even hit their children.
4. What did Karin remember about her mother?
She remembered that she always wanted to be with her. It was never boring.
5. What was Astrid's secret job?
She helped a man write a book.
6. What was the book about?
It was written to help police officers catch thieves.



Words

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. se ut som | look like |
| 2. barnvagn | stroller |
| 3. la märke till | noticed |
| 4. sällan | seldom |
| 5. arg | mad |
| 6. handla, agera | act |
| 7. gentemot, mot | towards |
| 8. tråkigt | boring |
| 9. hade bestämt | had decided |
| 10. tjuvar | thieves |

War Diaries

Questions

1. What happened on September 1, 1939?
The Second World War had begun.
2. When did the war end?
It ended in 1945.
3. What did Astrid write in her diary?
She wrote about her everyday life and what was happening around the world.
4. What was Astrid worried about?
She was worried that the war would come to Sweden.
5. What did people in Sweden do when the war came to Finland?
Some went there to fight, while others sent money and other things.
6. People's lives changed in Sweden too. In what way?
People could not buy food as easily as before. Men were called as soldiers.
7. In 1940, Astrid got a new secret job. What did she do?
She was censoring letters. She read letters to and from people in other countries to see if they wrote anything that the Swedish police should know.
8. A happy thing happened to Astrid's family? What?
They moved to a large apartment on Dalagatan in Stockholm



Words

1. unbelievable	2	en dagbok
2. a diary	9	döma
3. everyday life	13	fasansfull
4. worried	8	filtar
5. threatening	7	grannar
6. involved	5	hotfull
7. neighbors	6	inblandad
8. blankets	10	inflytande, inverkan
9. judge	4	orolig
10. impact	1	otroligt
11. was affecting	11	påverkade
12. avoid	12	undvika
13. horrible	3	vardagsliv

Pippi Longstocking

Questions

1. How did the stories about Pippi Longstocking start?
Astrid's daughter Karin was sick and in bed. Astrid told her stories about a girl and the crazy things she did.
2. Something happened that made Astrid write down the stories about Pippi Longstocking. What happened?
Astrid sprained her foot and had to stay in bed for a few weeks.
3. Why was the book about Pippi so popular?
Pippi was so fun and silly. After the war, people wanted to read about fun things.
4. Some people did not like Pippi. Why?
They thought she was a bad role model.



Words

Pair the Swedish words with the English words.

1. flätor	1	braids
2. fantasifull	10	comic strips
3. vricka/stuka foten	6	competition
4. anteckningsbok	5	healed
5. läkte	2	imaginative
6. tävling	4	notebook
7. förlag	13	pillow
8. förmodligen	8	probably
9. den mest berömda	7	publisher
10. tecknade serier	12	role model
11. knasig	11	silly
12. förebild	3	sprained her foot
13. kudde	9	the most famous

A Real Author

Questions

1. What are the figures 40, 47 and 27 about?
Astrid Lindgren wrote 40 books for children and young adults, 47 picture books and 27 scripts for films and TV series.
2. What do Bill Bergson, Master Detective, and his friends do?
They are chasing criminals.
3. What does Mio (Karl Anders Nilsson) do together with Pompoo?
He fights against the terrible Sir Kato.
4. Say three things, three adjectives, about Karlsson on the Roof.
He is stupid, selfish and funny.
5. What do Rasmus and the vagabond do?
They beg for food and fight thieves.
6. What must Emil in Lönneberga when he has done something wrong?
He has to sit in the "woodshop".
7. In *The Brothers Lionheart*, there is something called Nangiyala. What is that?
It is the land people go to when they die.
8. Who is Ronja the Robber's daughter?
She is a brave girl who lives in an old fortress in a large forest.



Words

composed	komponerade
feature film	långfilm/spelfilm
brilliant	genialisk
caves	grottor
mischief	hyss
invented	uppfann
tricky	knepig
vagabond	luffare
orphanage	barnhem
settings	miljöer (i böcker)
selfish	självisk
scary	skrämmande
filth	smuts/lort
handsome	snygg
song lyrics	sångtexter
sorrowful	sorgsen
young adults	unga vuxna

Editor at Rabén & Sjögren

Questions

1. Astrid Lindgren worked at the publisher Rabén & Sjögren. She was the editor and manager of children's and young adult literature. What did she do?
She worked with other authors and their books. She also decided which foreign books should be translated into Swedish.
2. What was important to Astrid?
Children should be able to see themselves in the books.
3. Do you agree with Astrid that children want to read about things in life, like love and death? Why? Why not?
Student's own answer.



Words

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. företag | company |
| 2. klagade | was complaining |
| 3. föreslog | suggested |
| 4. anställa | hire |
| 5. höst (AmE) | fall |
| 6. redaktör | editor |
| 7. utländsk | foreign |
| 8. råd | advice |
| 9. barndom | childhood |
| 10. dofter | smells |
| 11. smaker | tastes |
| 12. gick i pension | retired |

Famous and Beloved

Questions

1. Many people liked and trusted Astrid. Why?
In her books she showed that she understood how it felt to be lonely and sad.
2. What is the figure 75,000 about?
Astrid received 75,000 letters.
3. Astrid liked to spend her summers at the house in Furusund. Why?
There she could spend time with her family and write her books in peace and quiet.

Words

Pick at least five words from this chapter that you think are good to know. Write the words and the Swedish translations.



Involved in Important Issues

Questions

1. What did Astrid think about children's rights?
She thought that all children have the right to love, be safe and play.
2. What is her book "Kati in America" about?
It is about racism in the USA.
3. What does the photo show?
It shows Astrid Lindgren talking to a young man, a skinhead.
4. Why did Astrid say "stop being a skinhead" to the young man?
She said it because skinheads were often racists and Nazis.
5. Astrid made a political party lose an election. What did she do?
She said that there were mistakes in the rules for paying taxes.
6. Astrid got an unusual present for her 80th birthday. What was that?
The government gave her a new animal protection law.
7. You can say that Astrid was a good person. What examples are mentioned at the end of this chapter?
She helped two Kurdish families who did not get permission to stay in Sweden and she gave a lot of money to people and organizations.

Words

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1. important issues | 6 | beundrade |
| 2. injustice | 12 | det visade sig |
| 3. oppression | 11 | djurskyddslag |
| 4. clearly | 13 | elakt/styggt |
| 5. readers | 3 | förtryck |
| 6. admired | 5 | läsare |
| 7. upset | 2 | orättvisa |
| 8. society | 10 | regering |
| 9. taxes | 8 | samhälle |
| 10. government | 9 | skatter |
| 11. animal protection law | 4 | tydligt |
| 12. it turned out | 14 | uppehållstillstånd |
| 13. nasty | 7 | upprörd |
| 14. permission to stay | 1 | viktiga frågor |



Life With and Without Sture

Questions

1. What happened in the summer of 1944?
Sture told Astrid that he was in love with another woman and that he wanted a divorce.
2. Another terrible thing happened in 1952. What happened?
Sture became sick and went to the hospital. He died two days later.

Words

Pick at least five words from this chapter that you think are good to know. Write the words and the Swedish translations.

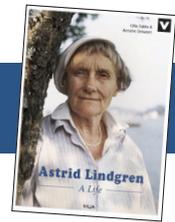
Astrid Grows Old

Questions

1. When Astrid was old she was still full of energy. What example of that is there in this chapter?
She climbed trees.
2. Something sad happened in 1986. What happened?
Her son Lasse died of cancer.
3. What problems did Astrid have in her last years?
She was tired. She did not see well and she did not hear well. She had a stroke and after that it was difficult for her to walk.

Words

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | priser, utmärkelser | awards |
| 2. | klättrade | climbed |
| 3. | växte | grew |
| 4. | barnbarn | grandchildren |
| 5. | sorg | sorrow |
| 6. | fyllde 90 | turned 90 |



Death and Burial

Fill in the missing words

She was **buried** on March 8, 2002.

First, Astrid's **casket** was brought through Stockholm on a carriage. A girl leading a white **horse** walked behind it.

One hundred thousand people were on the streets of Stockholm watching the **procession**.

The **funeral** was held at the Church of St. Nicholas in the Old Town. The King, **Queen**, and Crown **Princess** were there together with many **members** of Parliament.

The casket was then brought to Vimmerby. Astrid is buried in the **cemetery** together with her mother and father.

The Whole World Reads Astrid's Books

Questions

1. What is the figure 160 million about?
160 million copies of Astrid's book have been sold all over the world.
2. Which are the three most popular books written by Astrid Lindgren?
Pippi Longstocking, The Brothers Lionheart, Emil in Lönneberga.

Words

Hur säger man "översatt till"? **translated into**

Hur säger man "exemplar" när man talar om böcker? **copies**

The Alma Prize

Questions

What do we learn about the Alma Prize? Answer these short questions.

When? **in 2002**

How much? **five million Swedish kronor**

For whom? **for authors of books for children and young adults**